

THE HERMITAGE, EAST CABIN
(The First Hermitage, Kitchen)
4580 Rachel's Lane

HABS
~~HAER~~ No. TN-52-B

~~Hermitage vicinity~~ NASHVILLE VICINITY
Davidson County
Tennessee

HABS
TENN
19-NASH.V
1B

PHOTOGRAPHS
Electrostatic Copies of Color Transparencies
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

HABS
TENN
19-NASH.V
1B -

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

THE HERMITAGE, EAST CABIN (The First Hermitage, Kitchen)

HABS No. TN-52-B

Location: The East Cabin is located on the property known as The Hermitage in Davidson County, twelve miles east of Nashville, in Hermitage, Tennessee.

The street address for The Hermitage is 4580 Rachel's Lane, Hermitage, Tennessee.

The Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) Coordinates for the East Cabin are:
16/534950/4007890.¹

Present Owner/

Occupant: The Ladies' Hermitage Association, a not-for-profit organization, has owned and operated The Hermitage as an historic site since 1889.

Present Use: Along with the West Cabin, the East Cabin represents what is extant of the initial area of settlement by Andrew Jackson on The Hermitage property. This area, called the First Hermitage, includes buildings exhibited to the public.

The mission of The Ladies' Hermitage Association is to interpret and preserve the structures at The Hermitage, including the East Cabin, because they represent the life and times of General Andrew Jackson. General Jackson was the hero of the Battle of New Orleans in January 1815 and later became the seventh President of the United States (1828-36).

Significance: Between 1804 and 1821, Andrew Jackson and his wife Rachel lived in the First Hermitage, in a structure now known as the West Cabin. The East Cabin is also part of the First Hermitage; it served as the kitchen building. While Jackson and his family occupied the cabins of the First Hermitage, he took an active role in Tennessee politics. Jackson made an impact on a statewide level through his decisions as a judge and on the national stage as a military leader. After the Jackson family moved into The Hermitage Mansion, built between 1819 and 1821, the cabin continued in use as slave quarters on his plantation.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History

1. Date: 1804-1821. The East Cabin was built sometime between the purchase of the property in 1804 and the completion of The Hermitage Mansion in 1821 (probably closer to the former date).

¹UTM coordinates taken from the USGS 7.5' series, Hermitage, Tennessee quadrangle, with a scale of 1:24,000.

THE HERMITAGE, EAST CABIN
HABS No. TN-52-B
(page 2)

2. Architect, Builder, Contractor, Suppliers: It is not known at this time who built the First Hermitage.² It was likely that The Hermitage slaves built the cabin under the supervision of Andrew Jackson or an overseer. Also, the materials probably are indigenous to the property.

3. Original and subsequent owners & occupants: General Andrew Jackson purchased The Hermitage property in August 1804.³ By February 1805, Jackson and his family were living there (in several buildings known today as the First Hermitage).⁴ Tradition suggests that the East Cabin was the kitchen building for the First Hermitage. Moreover, service buildings like the East Cabin could also provide housing for the people working in them. The East Cabin, then, was probably home to the Jackson family's cook, Betty. Her occupancy is substantiated by claims made by Betty's son Alfred, who said he was born in the East Cabin.⁵ The date of Alfred's birth, however, is uncertain.⁶ After 1821, when the Jacksons moved into The Hermitage Mansion, the East Cabin became a duplex slave quarter. The Hermitage remained in the Jackson family until 1856. At that time, Andrew Jackson, Jr., sold The Hermitage (500 acres) to the state of Tennessee.⁷ It is unknown who, if anyone, lived in the East Cabin after the sale. In 1889, the state gave the Ladies' Hermitage Association (LHA) a trust for twenty-five acres of the property that included the First Hermitage. The LHA has owned the property since 1889.⁸

4. Original plans and construction: The East Cabin is a double pen structure with exterior end chimneys. There is a door cut into the log partition wall. No plans or other documents survive to confirm Jackson's intentions for the design and use of the kitchen building.

²Please see the report for the West Cabin (HABS No. TN-52-A).

³Nathaniel Hays to Andrew Jackson, Deed, 23 August 1804, rec. 30 March 1805, Davidson County, Deed Book F, p. 241.

⁴Andrew Jackson, The Hermitage, to James Winchester, Letter, 17 February 1805, Andrew Jackson Papers, The Hermitage, Hermitage, Tennessee. (Microfilm, Supplemental Reel #2, 1805-13)

⁵Mary C. Dorris, Preservation of The Hermitage (/) Annals, History, and Stories, 1889-1915 (Nashville, TN: Smith and Lamar, 1915), p. 116. However, Samuel Smith makes the point about inconsistencies in Alfred's stories and his dates for them. See Samuel D. Smith, "An Archaeological and Historical Assessment of the First Hermitage, 1976," Report prepared for the Division of Archaeology, Tennessee Department of Conservation and the Ladies' Hermitage Association, 1976, Department of Archaeology, The Hermitage, Hermitage, Tennessee, p. 79-80.

⁶For example: In the 1870 census, Alfred's age was reported as 67 and his wife Gracy's was 66. In 1880, Alfred was 78 years old and Gracy was 75 years old. By 1890, census takers described Alfred as a widower. His age was listed as 97 years. Also in the 1890 census Alfred's birthday was given; it was in March 1803. The inscription on his tombstone, however, says "Uncle Alfred (/) died (/) Sept. 4, 1901 (/) aged (/) 98 years (/) Faithful Servant of Andrew Jackson." For Alfred's grave marker, please see photograph HABS No. TN-52-75. Record Group 29, Bureau of the Census, Population Schedules, 1870-1890, National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, D.C. (Microfilm T-1593, roll #1521, T-9, roll #1251, T-623, roll 1525).

⁷Andrew Jackson, Jr., to the State of Tennessee, Deed, 28 March 1856, rec. 29 March 1856, Davidson County, Deed Book 24, p. 148.

⁸Nashville, Tennessee, Senate Bill No. 461, 1889, re: conveyance of 25 acres to the Ladies' Hermitage Association.

5. Alterations and additions:

Jackson Residency, 1804-1821

Between 1804 and 1821, the East Cabin most likely was used a service building on the Jackson plantation.⁹ During the archaeological excavations of 1980, archaeologists led by Jane Henshaw discovered an early pier about twenty feet north of the current southeast corner and another at the midpoint, one stone south of the present location; to the north and south ends, they found borrow pits. The pits were dug to get the clay needed for mortar and chinking; in them, the archaeologists found limestone chips discarded during the chimneys' construction. The borrow pit on the north end was filled with ash, while that on the south was not. The presence of ash suggests that the north chimney stack was rebuilt after a fire. Archaeologists propose that the chimney on the north side was made of wattle and daub like those originally heating the field quarter buildings. The clay and stick chimney was replaced by one made of stone after Jackson was established on the property.¹⁰

During this time, the Jacksons used the East Cabin as their kitchen, however, the cabin is a double pen structure. Its architectural arrangement suggests that the cabin was home to more activities than just those of the kitchen. While it is possible that both pens were part of a large kitchen complex, it is more likely that one pen was the kitchen and the other operated as a laundry, loom house, or housing for the cook's family. More evidence is needed to determine how the cabin was used and if those functions dictated any structural changes between 1804 and 1821.

1821-1889

After the Jackson family moved into The Hermitage Mansion, the First Hermitage became slave quarters. While no date for this change in occupation has been identified, it was probably put to reuse once the new buildings were occupied in 1821.

Between the 1820s and 1850, the cabin was part of a quarter that housed five slave families.¹¹ In the 1850s, the Jackson family relocated a portion of its workforce to plantations in the Mississippi River

⁹There is no documentary evidence, that I have found, in the Andrew Jackson Papers, Deeds, Census, Plat Maps, etc., that mention the East Cabin or its use.

¹⁰Jane Henshaw, "Archaeological Investigations at the East Cabin, First Hermitage," Report, 1980, Department of Archaeology, The Hermitage, Hermitage, Tennessee; Jillian E. Galle and Larry McKee, "Archaeological Recovery of Architectural Evidence at the First Hermitage through 1998," Report, March 1999, Department of Archaeology, The Hermitage, Hermitage, Tennessee.

¹¹Jillian E. Galle and Larry McKee, "Beyond the Mansion (/) A Guided Archaeological Tour of Hermitage Plantation Life," Educational Literature, [by 1999], The Hermitage, Hermitage, Tennessee.

valley below Memphis and in 1856 sold The Hermitage to the state of Tennessee.¹² It is unknown how this change in ownership affected the occupation of the East Cabin.

In 1860, James Parton published the book, Life of Andrew Jackson. Parton traveled to Tennessee to gather information. From his visit to The Hermitage grounds, Parton surmised that

[. . .] To this house [the West Cabin] was soon added a smaller one, which stood about twenty feet from the principal structure, and was connected with it by a covered passage. This was General Jackson's establishment from 1804 to 1819. These houses are still standing at the Hermitage, though not as close together as they were formerly. [. . .] The smaller house has been drawn up near the present Hermitage; where it also serves as a Negro cabin, and [. . .]. The building which formerly connected these two stands near by, and is used as a storehouse. "There is nothing but plunder in it," explained one of the Negro women.¹³

Similar to The Hermitage outlined in Parton's book are Augustus C. Buell's recollections of a conversation he had with Sarah Childress Polk in 1874. Polk was seventy-one years old at the time; Buell stated that Polk was born about twenty miles from the Hermitage property. In the 1810s, her father entertained Andrew Jackson when he came to Murfreesburo for business and politics.¹⁴ She described The Hermitage of her girlhood as

The Hermitage of the period now under consideration was not the commodious country house so familiar to devout Democrats in pilgrimages of later years. [. . .] It was a group of log-houses in close proximity to each other. [. . .] near [the West Cabin] were three

¹²Several slaves went with Samuel Jackson to work on the farms he ran for his father, Andrew Jackson, Jr., in Mississippi; these included Ben and Creasy. See Letters, 1858-59, Department of Collections, The Hermitage, Hermitage, Tennessee.

Regarding the sale, see Sarah Jackson, The Hermitage, to Andrew Jackson, III, 11 February 1856, Department of Collections, The Hermitage, Hermitage, Tennessee; Andrew Jackson, Jr., to the State of Tennessee, Deed, 28 March 1856, rec. 29 March 1856, Davidson County, Deed Book 24, p. 148 (Microfilm, roll 19, Deed Books 23-26, 1856-61); Andrew Jackson, Jr., [advertisement] "Magnificent Farm for Sale," Union and American (Nashville, TN) 28 June 1856; Andrew Jackson, Jr., Statement regarding sale of The Hermitage, 4 July 1856, Department of Collections, The Hermitage, Hermitage, Tennessee; Sarah Jackson, The Hermitage, to Andrew Jackson, Jr., Letter, 15 April 1858, Department of Collections, The Hermitage, Hermitage, Tennessee; Sarah Jackson, Clifton, to Andrew Jackson, III, Letter, 19 February 1859, Department of Collections, The Hermitage, Hermitage, Tennessee.

Andrew Jackson, Jr., moreover, sold several of the slaves in order to make money to settle his debts. Thirty-seven were to be sold with the ironworks (1853) as well as sixteen or so in 1860, with another sale of equal size planned for the following year, in Mississippi. See Andrew Jackson, Jr., The Hermitage, Statement regarding the Iron Works Sale, August 1857, Department of Collections, The Hermitage, Hermitage, Tennessee; Sarah Jackson, Sea Song, to Andrew Jackson, III, Letter, 3 September 1860, Department of Collections, The Hermitage, Hermitage, Tennessee.

¹³James Parton, Life of Andrew Jackson, vol. 1 (New York, NY: Mason, 1860), p. 307-308.

¹⁴Carroll Van West, ed., The Tennessee Encyclopedia of History and Culture, (Nashville, TN: Rutledge Hill Press for the Tennessee Historical Society, 1998), s.v., "Sarah Childress Polk," by Jayne Crumpler DeFiore; Augustus C. Buell, History of Andrew Jackson (/) Pioneer, Patriot, Soldier, Politician, President, vol. 1 (New York, NY: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1904), p. 222-227.

THE HERMITAGE, EAST CABIN
HABS No. TN-52-B
(page 5)

smaller log houses, one story high with low attics. These were used as lodgings for members of the family or guests.¹⁵

Both descriptions of the First Hermitage say that there were several log structures in the complex. Unfortunately neither identifies the East Cabin specifically. No further detail can be taken from the recollections until additional evidence is found to substantiate them.

Ladies' Hermitage Association, 1889-present¹⁶

There are four postholes west of the southwest doorway that suggest an alteration to the cabin, the date and architectural form of which are unknown.¹⁷ Near the close of the nineteenth century, there was a windmill placed between the cabins.¹⁸

During the 1890s, the Ladies' Hermitage Association (LHA) repaired the structures of the First Hermitage. This work included rebuilding the chimneys of the East Cabin. During archaeological investigations, borrow pits to the north and to the southwest and southeast of the chimneys were discovered; each contained limestone chips and clay for the construction of the stacks around 1896.¹⁹

In 1896, the LHA authorized other repairs to the "old kitchen belonging to the original Hermitage." The next year, the LHA had a new floor and doors installed. The impetus for the 1897 improvements to the East Cabin was the need to house the convicts, who were working on the roadway. It is uncertain if the floor and doors actually were put into the East Cabin at this time because in 1900 the LHA revisited the issue. In the minutes, the record shows a discussion took place regarding where to purchase lumber for the door and flooring for the smaller of the two historic cabins.²⁰

In 1917, the LHA had a new roof put in place and returned the "old safe" to the historic kitchen. The roof repairs merely led to others, for in 1919, the LHA had to find clapboards for the cabin gables

¹⁵Buell, vol. 1, p. 226. In his book, Stanley Horn quoted Mrs. Polk, again describing the Jackson residence with three smaller, one story log houses around it. See Stanley F. Horn, The Hermitage (/) Home of Old Hickory (New York, NY: Greenberg, Publisher, 1950), p. 17.

¹⁶According to staff members of The Hermitage, there are no receipts for work done at First Hermitage that could verify changes mentioned/authorized in the LHA minutes. Moreover, the minutes from the LHA were only available to 1990. Site visits, April and May 1999.

¹⁷Please see photographs: HABS No. TN-52-B-8, TN-52-B-11, and TN-52-B-14.

¹⁸Ladies' Hermitage Association Collection, Photograph (P0249.04), n.d., Department of Collections, The Hermitage, Hermitage, Tennessee.

¹⁹Henshaw, "Archaeological Investigations at the East Cabin, First Hermitage"; Galle and McKee, "Archaeological Discovery of Architectural Evidence at the First Hermitage through 1998."

²⁰Minutes, September 1896, March 1897, October 1900, Ladies' Hermitage Association, The Hermitage, Hermitage, Tennessee.

THE HERMITAGE, EAST CABIN
HABS No. TN-52-B
(page 6)

and the barn. The next mention of the East Cabin came in 1926; at that time, the LHA discussed redoing the interior.²¹

Between 1936 and 1939, improvements to The Hermitage were undertaken by the Works Projects Administration. The WPA work focused on the “restoration and beautification” of The Hermitage. Restoration of the “original log Hermitage” was included specifically, however what that entailed was not itemized in the WPA project proposal.²² In Fall 1936, the LHA pronounced the “reproduced” cabins as “charming” and commented that the work was almost complete.²³

By 1951 the LHA was concerned about the deterioration of the First Hermitage complex.²⁴ The floor was gone entirely and the sill logs rotted. They feared the roof was soon to give in completely. In the minutes, the LHA discussed poplar flooring and costs of cedar shakes.²⁵

While the East Cabin’s appearance was a continued worry to the LHA, in the later part of the 1950s, they were concerned with making the cabins more of a “feature” in the landscape by adding fruit trees, improving the paths leading there, and upgrading the signage. In 1958, the LHA debated what material was appropriate shingles for the cabin. They ultimately decided to postpone a restoration until proper research could be done.²⁶

In 1959 the LHA consulted Robert Goodpasture, someone they described as an expert on log buildings. Goodpasture recommended that the LHA take out the floor and put in a brick floor in the

²¹Minutes, June 1917, July 1917, March 1919, September 1920, August 1921, June 1926, Ladies’ Hermitage Association, The Hermitage, Hermitage, Tennessee.

²²Record Group 69, Works Projects Administration, National Archives and Records Administration, College Park, Maryland. At the National Archives, records of the work at The Hermitage include photographs and a microfilm copy of the project folder (OP65-44-1645).

²³Minutes, September 1936, October 1936, Ladies’ Hermitage Association, The Hermitage, Hermitage, Tennessee. This citation coincides with the Works Progress Administration projects on the property; the WPA project included work on the log buildings and caretaker’s house (present Administration Building) as well as farming endeavors, raising livestock, and improvements to the grounds such as fences and brick walkways. See Record Group 69, Works Projects Administration, National Archives and Record Administration, College Park, Maryland.

²⁴Minutes, August 1951, December 1951, April 1952, July 1952, Ladies’ Hermitage Association, The Hermitage, Hermitage, Tennessee.

²⁵Minutes, July 1952, November 1952, Ladies’ Hermitage Association, The Hermitage, Hermitage, Tennessee.

²⁶Minutes, February 1958, May 1958, June 1958, September 1958, October 1958, November 1958, December 1958, February 1959, April 1959, August 1959, Ladies’ Hermitage Association, The Hermitage, Hermitage, Tennessee.

For the record, staff members at The Hermitage say that the brick floor was original. Personal Communication, Clare Adams, August 1999.

THE HERMITAGE, EAST CABIN
HABS No. TN-52-B
(page 7)

“Upper Cabin.”²⁷ In the 1960s, the focus returned to the exterior surroundings of the cabin, resulting in the decision to plant cotton and to cultivate apple and peach trees near the First Hermitage.²⁸

Beginning in 1974, there was an extensive archaeological investigation of the First Hermitage. The next year, Henry A. Judd, a preservation architect for the Department of Interior, came to look at the property. Judd commented on the brick floor in the north pen of the East Cabin; he said that the bricks used were modern and suggested removing several to look for evidence of the original flooring. By 1976, the initial work was complete and the LHA faced the prospect of finding 4500 board feet of heart of yellow poplar for repairs. Two years later, the LHA authorized better signs for the cabin, and voted to have the structure braced. At this time, the LHA suggested having Judd return to The Hermitage and evaluate the buildings. In 1979, the LHA delayed “attending” to the cabin in spite of its rotten logs, roof leaks, and chimney instability; this decision probably was the result of financial constraints. In the interim, the LHA had a heavy black plastic put in the cabin to keep out the water.²⁹

In 1980 the restoration of the First Hermitage was contracted to H & H Construction. At the same time, the LHA authorized archaeological inspections of the site. As a result of examinations by architect Henry A. Judd, archaeologist Jane Henshaw, and contractor Ray Hagewood, several recommendations were made. The north chimney, for example, was pronounced unstable and it was advised that it be taken down. The south chimney was also determined to be unstable, but not in as bad condition as the north. It was then decided to replace the “arch” while noting that the whole needs to be redone completely another time.³⁰

²⁷Minutes, August 1959, September 1959, October 1959, Ladies’ Hermitage Association, The Hermitage, Hermitage, Tennessee.

²⁸Minutes, July 1960, October 1960, March 1961, March 1962, June 1963, January 1965, Ladies’ Hermitage Association, The Hermitage, Hermitage, Tennessee.

²⁹Minutes, February 1974, April 1974, July 1974, October 1974, November 1974, June 1975, August 1975, November 1975, January 1976, February 1976, August 1978, September 1978, November 1978, September 1979, Ladies’ Hermitage Association, The Hermitage, Hermitage, Tennessee. Site visit and inspection, Henry A. Judd, November 1978. The doors, Judd noted, were twentieth-century products. Judd recommended capping the south chimney, treating the building for termites, and using yellow poplar logs for repair.

³⁰Minutes, April 1980, June 1980, and July 1980, Ladies’ Hermitage Association, The Hermitage, Hermitage, Tennessee.

In the notes taken from Henry Judd’s visit, he observed that in the north pen there were studs pieced together over fireplace; the position of the studs suggested to Judd that perhaps a window was cut into the gable at one point. He also noted that there were holes in the roof, a beam not like the others by the fireplace, as well as the movement of the chimney. Judd commented that the notching tied the rafters to the beams and that the cabin was a well built building. In the south pen, Judd noted that the arch was going to fall, the rafters overlapped, and that dowels could be inserted into the walls to make a closet. Henry A. Judd, Site visit and inspection, 1979-80.

THE HERMITAGE, EAST CABIN
HABS No. TN-52-B
(page 8)

By 1986, the shingles needed to be replaced. In 1988 the chinking was repaired. Several years later, in 1990, the East Cabin was wired for electricity. The outlets are for the portable lights required by architects and archaeologists conducting investigations of the structure and its environs.³¹

Evaluations of the East Cabin, 1988-1995³²

In 1988, The Hermitage property was surveyed by William W. Howell for the Tennessee Historical Commission. Howell noted that the north chimney needed mortar and that there was a new sill log under the north door. The logs had rotted because of the lack of an overhang, gutter, or other horizontal surface to splash water away from the building. Howell further suggested that the ground by south and east facades be re-graded to prevent further settlement. As a general preventive maintenance procedure, Howell recommended, waterproofing the logs.³³

In 1991, Victor Hood conducted a survey of the historic structures on The Hermitage property. At the East Cabin, Hood saw that the west facade needed work on its foundation, as well as repairs to the sill log, doors, and chinking. He suggested that the ceiling joists needed waterproofing and that the boards covering the wall plate be removed. The north facade required some action regarding the sleeper while the condition of the east would be improved by changing the grade or raising the building to avoid detrimental ground contact. The south wall fared the worst; it needed to be rebuilt altogether. Inside, the East Cabin floor, ceiling joists, fireplace, doors, and whitewash all deserved attention.³⁴

In 1994 or 1995, John W. Reilly examined the East Cabin. Reilly noted that the cabin was made of poplar logs and the interstices chinked and covered with a Portland cement, fiberglass, and clay mixture. At this time, Reilly observed that the west facade's continuous stone foundation was sinking into the ground, that its fascia and soffit boards were not original, and that the ceiling joists were inconsistent -- a feature suggesting some had been replaced. The joist over the center partition wall did not protrude as the other ceiling joists did; instead, it was cut flush with the wall plane.³⁵

Reilly recommended that the chinking be repaired and the cornice removed. Of the cabin's north gable end, Reilly noted that it needed flashing and something to help the wall and chimney to settle at the same rate; the south wall and chimney were separating. The condition of the chinking and logs in the south wall was poor and needed attention. Above, the sawn oak shingles covering the roof of the East

³¹Minutes, November 1986, February 1990, Ladies' Hermitage Association, The Hermitage, Hermitage, Tennessee; "Original Cabins," folder, Department of Preservation, The Hermitage, Hermitage, Tennessee.

³²It was not obvious from the copies of these reports which of the recommendations were pursued by the Ladies' Hermitage Association.

³³William W. Howell, "Survey of Historic Sites and Properties," Inspection Report for the Tennessee Historical Commission, June 1988, Department of Preservation, The Hermitage, Hermitage, Tennessee.

³⁴Victor Hood, "East Cabin," Report, 1991-92, Department of Preservation, The Hermitage, Hermitage, Tennessee.

³⁵For illustration of the ceiling joists, please see the following photographs: HABS No. TN-52-B-10, TN-52-B-16, and TN-52-B-17.

THE HERMITAGE, EAST CABIN
HABS No. TN-52-B
(page 9)

Cabin were in poor condition. Generally speaking, the interior also was not in good shape. Reilly noted that the tongue and groove flooring had been removed and replaced by butt joined poplar or pine.³⁶

B. Historical Significance:

In August 1804, Andrew Jackson bought a 425-acre farm and shortly thereafter named it The Hermitage. For the next fifteen years, Andrew and Rachel Jackson lived in a cluster of log buildings on that property. Two of these structures are extant (the West and East Cabins) and are located on the part of the property known as the First Hermitage.

At the First Hermitage, the Jackson family entertained notable visitors, including President Monroe and Aaron Burr. In 1813, Jackson's occupation as a gentleman farmer ended for he was called into military service. Because of his conduct in the Creek War, Jackson received a commission as a Major-General. He became a national hero after his success in the Battle of New Orleans in January 1815.³⁷

For more contextual information, please see the reports for HABS No. TN-52-A and TN-52-C.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement

1. Architectural character: The East Cabin is an example of a vernacular building type; its walls are made from logs laid horizontally and overlapped at the corners to secure the structure. In Tennessee, log structures were held together by the half-dovetail notch, the saddle notch, the square notch, and V-notch.³⁸ In the East Cabin, the corners reveal a square notch. This notch generally has been found in

³⁶Reilly's report was included in the "Original Cabins" folder; see John W. Reilly, "A Restoration Survey (/) Original Hermitage (West House) and Duplex Slave Quarter (East House)," Report,[1994 or 1995], Department of Preservation, The Hermitage, Hermitage, Tennessee. Please note the date of the report was provided by Clare Adams, Director of Preservation, The Hermitage.

³⁷Per request of The Hermitage staff to emphasize the political & military affairs theme that won The Hermitage its designation as a National Historic Landmark, the significance statement was taken from the NHL nomination. See Fred B. Sarles and W.B. Morton, III, with Polly M. Rettig and Cecil McKithan, "The Hermitage (home of Andrew Jackson)," Nomination Form, 1978, National Historic Landmarks, National Park Service, Washington, D.C. However, I recommend reading the biography of Andrew Jackson by Robert Remini (Andrew Jackson, 3 vols.) for information about Andrew Jackson and his political and military career. I mention this because the NHL nomination form and this report are not designed to add significantly to scholarship about Andrew Jackson and the social, political, and military histories of which he is a part.

³⁸Fred B. Kniffen and Henry Glassie, "Building in Wood in the Eastern United States: A Time-Place Perspective," in Common Places (/) Readings in American Vernacular Architecture, ed. Dell Upton and John Michael Vlach (Athens, GA and London: University of Georgia Press, 1986), p. 3-26; David Hackett Fischer, America (/) A Cultural History, vol. 1, Albion's Seed (/) Four British Folkways in America (New York, NY and Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1989), p. 158-181; Donald A. Hutslar, The Architecture of Migration (/) Log Construction in the Ohio Country, 1750-1850 (Athens, OH: Ohio University Press, 1986), p. 175-177, 227-243; van West, ed., The Tennessee Encyclopedia of History and Culture, s.v., "Housing, Vernacular Log Types," by Clifton Cox Ellis.

THE HERMITAGE, EAST CABIN
HABS No. TN-52-B
(page 10)

buildings of lesser significance or refinement than in those structures used as primary dwellings or public services.

The East Cabin also is in keeping with local plans that expanded on the one-room or single pen format. This single pen plan had a ground level enclosed space heated by an exterior end chimney. The pen was either rectangular or square in shape. The single pen provided an additive architectural framework, enabling pens to be lined up next to one another. When two single pens shared a wall (without chimneys in it), the structure was called a double pen. The double pen plan had exterior end chimneys.³⁹ The East Cabin is an example of the double pen type.

2. Condition of fabric: Deterioration and an increasing degree of instability characterize the East Cabin. Contact between the ground and the sill logs has been the East Cabin's biggest foe, letting in termites and water. Various logs have been replaced over time, such as the sills and bottom log in the partition wall as well as the roof.⁴⁰

Generally, the cabin suffers from age and the impermanence of wood, its building material. The life-span of a wood building such as the East Cabin, decreases when the logs are sealed with a Portland cement mixture. The cement does not move with the logs and that causes stress on the structure.⁴¹ The East Cabin remains relatively unstable and has the potential to slide away from its foundation piers and rotting sill logs.⁴² Likewise, the white wash is peeling and flakes off to the touch.

Particularly vulnerable is the southeast corner of the building, which has been rebuilt. The telltale clues to this repair lie in the alignment of the wall logs. Here, the logs to either side of the door do not line up. Also, in this corner, the log beneath the gable plate is notched. The notches now point downwards, but if right side up, the timber would still be out of place to receive the east-to-west joists. These characteristics, superfluous to the design integrity of the cabin, suggest that the log is a reused piece. The south chimney, moreover, is no longer structurally sound.⁴³

B. Description of Exterior

³⁹John Morgan, The Log House in East Tennessee (Knoxville, TN: University of Tennessee Press, 1990), p.7-18, passim; Fred B. Kniffen, "Folk Housing: Key to Diffusion," in Common Places (/) Readings in American Vernacular Architecture, ed. Dell Upton and John Michael Vlach (Athens, GA and London: University of Georgia Press, 1986), p. 3-26; Fischer, p. 655-662.

⁴⁰Evidence that the roof is not original to the cabin is in the shallow pitch, the butt joined rafter pairs (rather than mortice & tenoned), and use of nails. Because the roofing members have been replaced, evidence for a gable partition like that seen in Alfred's Cabin (HABS No. TN-52-C) at The Hermitage is gone. Personal Communication, Mark S. Schara, September 1999.

⁴¹See Robert C. Mack, FAIA, and John P. Spewick, "Repointing Mortar Joints in Historic Masonry Buildings," Preservation Briefs, no. 2 (1980); rev. edition, 1998.

⁴²Personal Communication, Douglass C. Reed, May 1999.

⁴³Personal Communication, Douglass C. Reed, May 1999.

THE HERMITAGE, EAST CABIN
HABS No. TN-52-B
(page 11)

1. Overall dimensions: The East Cabin is a one-story, double pen structure, measuring approximately 30' x 18'.⁴⁴

2. Foundations: The stone pier foundations of the cabin are fully exposed by the ongoing archaeological efforts at the site. To help support the building, cinder blocks have been positioned in key places, such as on the south side of the east facade beneath the doorway and beneath the log partition wall. The archaeological investigation, moreover, removed the dirt surrounding the foundation piers so that the excavation ground level is about two feet below grade.⁴⁵

3. Walls: The cabin walls are constructed of hewn logs. The gaps between the logs were filled with chinking and then daubed to produce a sealed, solid wall. The east and west walls consist of six or seven logs built to an eight-foot pitch while the gable ends have seven (north) and eight (south), including the gable plate and sill, depending on the grade of the terrain. The gables are covered in roughly made wood siding or clapboards. The south gable end measures 16'2" from the chimney top down to the ground level; the north gable end is 16'7" from the chimney top to the ground.

4. Structural systems: Made of horizontal log construction, the square corner notches hold the East Cabin together and the stone piers support it from below.⁴⁶ Covering the building is a gable roof supported by small or common rafters. These rafters have collar beams coupling the pairs which rest on a (new) log that runs overtop of the wall plate. The beams are nailed into the rafters. The gable plate laps over the long walls' top plate, holding it in place. The plate simultaneously serves as the foot of the gable rising above it, much the same as a tie beam or end girt does for framed structures. The gable plate also supports the studs that provide the frame for the clapboards that comprise the gable face.

5. Chimneys: There are two exterior end chimneys in the East Cabin. The chimneys are made with stone masonry construction. They are each about three feet thick and just over sixteen feet tall.⁴⁷

6. Openings:

a. Doorways and doors: There are four exterior doors leading into the East Cabin. All are made of wood and measure about three feet across. The doors give access into each pen from the west and east facades. The wood doors each have a wood frame that protrudes approximately three inches into the room. The door stops are merely another narrow piece of timber nailed onto the frame.

⁴⁴Measurements in feet, inches, and to the one-eighth of an inch taken for the photogrammetric images are as follows: the east side is 29.9.2 across, west is 30.1.2, south is 17.7.4, and the north is 18.5.7. Please see the HABS fieldnotes for the East Cabin (HABS No. TN-52-B).

⁴⁵Around 1960, a series of stones was placed beneath the sill logs, however, these stones carry no true weight. See Smith, "An Archaeological and Historical Assessment of the Hermitage, 1976," p. 124; and for a photograph of the stones, please see HABS No. TN-52-B-31.

⁴⁶Please see photographs: HABS No. TN-52-B-9, TN-52-B-17, and TN-52-B-18.

⁴⁷The chimney on the south side measures 16.1.4 (feet, inches, one-eighth of an inch) and the north side chimney is 16.7.3. For the other, exact dimensions, please see the HABS drawings (HABS No. TN-52-B, sheets 1 & 2).

THE HERMITAGE, EAST CABIN
HABS No. TN-52-B
(page 12)

b. Windows and shutters: There are no windows or shutters punctuating the walls of the East Cabin.

8. Roof:

a. Shape, covering: The East Cabin has a gable roof, made of common rafters tied together by collar beams, that is covered by oak shingles. The shingled west side overshoots the east; this projection, known as combing, was determined by the direction of prevailing winds. It protects the roof peak from water penetration.⁴⁸

b. Cornice, eaves: Siding was nailed onto the logs and so cover the log wall and gable plates. The siding of the gable hides the gable plate while boards tacked onto the wall plate add a finish to the fascia and soffit surfaces of the cornice. The fascia consists of three steps (boards nailed on one another), a layering upward and outward beneath the eave. The soffit consists of a board nailed onto the underside of the exposed log; the fascia running along the gable end, acting as a coping to deflect water and seal the joint of the roof to the end wall, is a wooden piece made of only one board about the same width as a common rafter.⁴⁹

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans: The East Cabin is a duplex, with each half consisting of one room or pen. Measuring from the back of the firebox to the log dividing wall, the south pen is 16'8" across and the north pen is 17'2". The south pen is 18'2" deep and the north pen is 18'3" measuring from the east doorway to the west doorway. Access between the two rooms of the duplex plan is possible because of the interior door cut at the mid point of the log partition wall. The pens are heated by chimneys placed in the center of the end walls. There is no extant hearth in the north pen; only rubble remains. In the south pen, the hearth is made of bricks. In each, there are two root cellars, roughly on an axis with one another and in line with the hearths.⁵⁰ There is no loft space above.

2. Flooring: At the time of the HABS field team visit in April 1999, there was no floor in the East Cabin.⁵¹

⁴⁸Please see photograph: HABS No. TN-52-B-12.

⁴⁹Please see photograph: HABS No. TN-52-B-5.

⁵⁰See Galle and McKee, "Archaeological Recovery of Architectural Evidence at the First Hermitage through 1998," especially Map 4 that shows the position of the root cellars. For general views of the north and south pens, please see the following photographs: HABS No. TN-52-B-20 and TN-52-B-27. HABS photographs also include several of the root cellars; please see HABS No. TN-52-B-22, TN-52-B-23, TN-52-B-24, TN-52-B-25, TN-52-B-28, TN-52-B-29, TN-52-B-33, and TN-52-B-34.

⁵¹During Henry A. Judd's site visits to The Hermitage in the 1970s, records of his observations of various buildings were kept. Notes taken during his 1975 visit record a brief discussion of the north pen's brick floor and whether the modern brick should be replaced with mid nineteenth-century ones. Unfortunately, the record of the conversation does not mention when the brick floor was installed or what it replaced. See Henry A. Judd, Site visit, June 1975 & June 1979; Minutes, June

4. Wall and ceiling finish: The interior exposed log walls of the East Cabin have been whitewashed.

5. Openings:

a. Doorways and door: There is one doorway inside the East Cabin; it connects the north and south pens. It is a three-foot wide opening that has been cut out of the partition wall. There is a six inch wood frame pegged into the log partition wall, but the door itself has been removed. Evidence of its presence is the leather hinges on the wood frame.⁵²

b. Windows: There are no windows in the East Cabin.

6. Hardware: The typical door hinge measures approximately fifteen inches long, tapering from two inches at the butt to roughly one inch at the rounded end. It is fastened to the door by screws with square heads and a one inch thick board on the reverse. In addition to the traditional strap hinge, the doors into the East Cabin have modern dead bolt locks and padlocks securing them to the frame.

8. Mechanical equipment: The East Cabin is wired for electricity. There is no heating, ventilation, or air-conditioning system in place.

D. Site

The East Cabin is part of a complex of brick and log structures known as the First Hermitage. However, of the plantation buildings in the First Hermitage (1804 -) only the East and West Cabins are extant. These cabins are some distance away from The Hermitage Mansion, about 900 feet or so northwest of that structure.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

A. Early Views⁵³

1975, June 1979, June 1980, Ladies' Hermitage Association, The Hermitage, Hermitage, Tennessee.

In the April 1950 minutes of the Ladies' Hermitage Association board meeting, references to the work done during the Works Projects Administration project were made. The minutes state that "Mrs. Blackie, who had served with Mrs. E.A. Lindsey as co-chairman of the WPA project on [T]he Hermitage grounds, told the Board that she and Mrs. Lindsey had made every effort to obtain sufficient information about the original log structure and outhouses to have restored when the WPA funds were available; but said that they were never able to find enough authentic data to make a correct restoration. Mrs. Blackie said, however that under the W.P.A. program new supports were put underneath the log house, and also a new floor was laid." Please note, however, that there was no specific reference to the installation a brick floor in the East Cabin in the 1930s. See Minutes, April 1950, Ladies' Hermitage Association, The Hermitage, Hermitage, Tennessee.

⁵²Please see photograph: HABS No. TN-52-B-26.

⁵³There are reportedly several photographs of The Hermitage property from a private collection that were given to a researcher (Donald Hublar) connected to the Tennessee State Museum or to the State Library. The images supposedly are to be part of a publication. I did not get to track down this lead.

- Ladies' Hermitage Association Photographs, The Hermitage, Hermitage, Tennessee
- Prints and Photographs Division, Madison Building, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
- Record Group 69, Works Projects Administration, National Archives and Records Administration, College Park, Maryland

B. Selected Bibliography

Primary Sources

Davidson County Plat Books, 1860-1939, Tennessee State Library and Archives, Nashville, Tennessee.

Davidson County Court Records, Tennessee State Library and Archives, Nashville, Tennessee.

Galle, Jillian E. and Larry McKee, "Archaeological Discovery of Architectural Evidence at the First Hermitage through 1998," Report, March 1999, Department of Archaeology, The Hermitage, Hermitage, Tennessee.

Jackson Family Letters, 1845-1855, 1856-1859, 1860-1898, Department of Collections, The Hermitage, Hermitage, Tennessee.

Ladies' Hermitage Association Research files, Department of Preservation, The Hermitage, Hermitage, Tennessee.

McKee, Larry. "Summary Report on the 1994 Excavation around 'Alfred's Cabin' at the Hermitage," Report, December 1997. Department of Archaeology, The Hermitage, Hermitage, Tennessee.

McKee, Larry, Brian Thomas and Jennifer Bartlett. "Summary Report on the 1993 Hermitage Mansion Yard Excavation." Report, October 1994. Department of Archaeology, The Hermitage, Hermitage, Tennessee.

Minutes, Ladies' Hermitage Association, 1889-1990, The Hermitage, Hermitage, Tennessee.⁵⁴

The Papers of Andrew Jackson, The Hermitage, Hermitage, Tennessee. (Microfilm)

The Papers of Andrew Jackson, Manuscript Reading Room, Madison Building, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. (Microfilm)

⁵⁴When asked, the staff of The Hermitage allowed me to look through the copies of the minutes of the Ladies' Hermitage Association board meetings. Unfortunately, the minutes I had access to only went up and into 1990.

THE HERMITAGE, EAST CABIN
HABS No. TN-52-B
(page 15)

The Papers of Andrew Jackson. Vol. 1, 1770-1803. Ed., Sam B. Smith and Harriet Chappell Owsley. Knoxville, TN: University of Tennessee Press, 1980; 2nd printing, 1987.

The Papers of Andrew Jackson. Vol. 2, 1804-1813. Ed., Harold D. Moser, Sharon Macpherson, and Charles F. Bryan, Jr. Knoxville, TN: University of Tennessee Press, 1984.

The Papers of Andrew Jackson. Vol. 4, 1816-1820. Ed., Harold D. Moser, David R. Hoth, and George H. Hoemann. Knoxville, TN: University of Tennessee Press, 1994.

Record Group 29, Bureau of the Census, Population Schedules, National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, D.C., and Tennessee State Library and Archives, Nashville, Tennessee.

Record Group 29, Bureau of the Census, Non-Population Schedules, 1850-1880, National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, D.C.

Record Group 69, Works Projects Administration, National Archives and Records Administration, College Park, Maryland.

Smith, Samuel D., ed. "An Archaeological and Historical Assessment of the First Hermitage, 1976." Report prepared for the Division of Archaeology, Tennessee Department of Archaeology and the Ladies' Hermitage Association, 1976. Department of Archaeology, The Hermitage, Hermitage, Tennessee.

Thomas, Brian W. "Community Among Enslaved African-Americans on the Hermitage Plantation, 1820s to 1850s." Ph.D. diss, State University of New York -Binghamton, 1995.

Secondary Sources

The Art and Mystery of Historical Archaeology (/) Essays in Honor of James Deetz. Edited by Anne E. Yentch and Mary C. Beaudry. Boca Raton, FL and London: CRC Press, 1993.

Bassett, John Spencer, ed. The Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. 6 vols. Washington, D.C.: Carnegie Institution, 1926-33.

Bassett, John Spencer. The Life of Andrew Jackson. 2 vols. Garden City and New York: Doubleday, Page and Co., 1911.

Bealor, Alex W. The Log Cabin (/) Homes of the North American Wilderness. Barre, MA: Barre Publishing, 1978.

Before Freedom Came (/) African-American Life in the Antebellum South. Edited by Edward D.C. Campbell, Jr., with Kym S. Rice. Charlottesville, VA: The University Press of Virginia for the Museum of the Confederacy, Richmond, VA, 1991.

THE HERMITAGE, EAST CABIN
HABS No. TN-52-B
(page 16)

- Blassingame, John W. The Slave Community: Plantation Life in the Antebellum South. New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 1972.
- Boles, John B. The South through Time. Vol. 1, A History of an American Region. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall, 1995.
- Buell, Augustus C. History of Andrew Jackson (/) Pioneer, Patriot, Soldier, Politician, President. 2 vols. New York, NY: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1904.
- Caldwell, Mary French. Andrew Jackson's Hermitage. Nashville, TN: privately printed for the Ladies' Hermitage Association, 1949.
- Crass, David Colin, Steven D. Smith, Martha A. Zierden, and Richard D. Brooks, ed. The Southern Colonial Backcountry (/) Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Frontier Communities. Knoxville, TN: University of Tennessee Press, 1998.
- Dorris, Mary C. (Mrs.) Preservation of the Hermitage, 1889-1915 (/) Annals, History, and Stories. Nashville, TN: Smith and Lamar, 1915.
- DuBois, W.E.B. The Soul of the Black Folk. With an Introduction by Donald B. Gibson. A.C. McClurg & Company, 1903; paperback ed., New York, NY: Penguin Books, 1989.
- Ferguson, Leland. Uncommon Ground (/) Archaeology and Early African America, 1650-1800. Washington, D.C.: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1992.
- Fischer, David Hackett. America (/) A Cultural History. Vol. 1, Albion's Seed (/) Four British Folkways in America. New York, NY and Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1989.
- Fox-Genovese, Elizabeth. Within the Plantation Household (/) Black and White Women of the Old South. Chapel Hill, NC and London: The University of North Carolina Press, 1988.
- Henretta, James A. "Families and Farms: Mentalite in Pre-Industrial America." William and Mary Quarterly, 1943-93, 3d series, In Search of Early America. Richmond, VA: The William Byrd Press, Inc., for the Institute of Early American History and Culture, 1993.
- Horn, Stanley F. The Hermitage (/) Home of Old Hickory. New York, NY: Greenberg Publisher, 1950.
- Hutchins, Catherine E., ed. Everyday Life in the Early Republic. Winterthur, DE: Henry Francis du Pont Winterthur Museum, 1994.
- Hutslar, Donald A. The Architecture of Migration (/) Log Construction in the Ohio Country, 1750-1850. Athens, OH: Ohio University Press, 1986.

- Jacobs, Harriet A. Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl, Written by Herself. Edited with an Introduction by Jean Fagan Yellin. Boston, MA: 1861; paperback ed., Cambridge, MA and London: Harvard University Press, 1987.
- Larkin, Jack. The Reshaping of Everyday Life, 1790-1840. The Everyday Life in America Series, ed. Richard Balkin. New York, NY: Harper and Row, Publishers, 1988; 1st Perennial Library ed., 1989.
- Levine, Lawrence W. Black Culture and Black Consciousness (/) African American Folk Thought from Slavery to Freedom. Oxford University Press, Inc., 1977; paperback ed., New York, NY and Oxford and London: Oxford University Press, 1978.
- Little, Barbara J., ed. Text Aided Archaeology. Boca Raton, Ann Arbor, and London: CRC Press, 1992.
- McDaniel, George W. Hearth and Home: Preserving a People's Culture. Philadelphia, PA: Temple University Press, 1982.
- Morgan, John. The Log House in East Tennessee. Knoxville, TN: The University of Tennessee Press, 1990.
- Olmsted, Frederick Law. The Cotton Kingdom (/) A Traveller's Observations on Cotton and Slavery in the American Slave States. Edited by Arthur M. Schlesinger, Sr., and Introduction by Lawrence N. Powell. 1st ed. New York, NY: Random House, Inc., 1984.
- Owens, Leslie Howard. This Species of Property: Slave Life and Culture in the Old South. New York, NY and Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1976.
- Parton, James. Life of Andrew Jackson. 3 vols. New York, NY: Mason Brothers, 1860.
- Remini, Robert V. Andrew Jackson. Vol. 1, The Course of American Empire, 1767-1821. Baltimore, MD and London: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1977.
- Remini, Robert V. Andrew Jackson. Vol. 2, The Course of American Freedom, 1822-1832. Baltimore, MD and London: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1981.
- Remini, Robert V. Andrew Jackson. Vol. 3, The Course of American Democracy, 1833-1845. Baltimore, MD and London: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1984.
- St. George, Robert Blair, ed. Material Life in America, 1600-1860. Boston, MA: Northeastern University Press, 1988.
- Schlereth, Thomas J., comp. Material Culture Studies in America. Nashville, TN: The American Association for State and Local History, 1982.
- Schlesinger, Arthur M. The Age of Jackson. Boston, MA: Little, Brown and Company, 1950.

THE HERMITAGE, EAST CABIN
HABS No. TN-52-B
(page 18)

- Singleton, Theresa A., ed. The Archaeology of Slavery and Plantation Life. Orlando, FL: Academic Press, Inc., 1985.
- Stampp, Kenneth M. The Peculiar Institution: Slavery in the Antebellum South. New York, NY: Random House, 1956.
- Stevenson, Brenda E. Life in Black and White (/) Family and Community in the Slave South. New York, NY and Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1996.
- Stilgoe, John R. Common Landscape of America, 1580-1845. New Haven, CT and London: Yale University Press, 1982.
- Upton, Dell and John Michael Vlach, ed. Common Places (/) Readings in American Vernacular Architecture. Athens, GA and London: University of Georgia Press, 1986.
- Van West, Carroll, ed. The Tennessee Encyclopedia of History and Culture. Nashville, TN: Rutledge Hill Press for the Tennessee Historical Society, 1998.
- Vlach, John Michael. Afro-American Tradition in the Decorative Arts. Cleveland, OH: Cleveland Museum of Art, 1978.
- Vlach, John Michael. Back of the Big House (/) The Architecture of Plantation Slavery. Chapel Hill, NC and London: The University of North Carolina Press, 1993.
- Walston, Mark L. "'Uncle Tom's Cabin' Revisited: Origins and Interpretations of Slave Housing in the American South." Southern Studies 24 (Winter 1985): 357-373.
- Woodward, C. Vann, ed. Mary Chestnut's Civil War. New Haven, CT and London: Yale University Press, 1981.
- Wright, Gwendolyn. Building the Dream (/) A Social History of Housing in America. Cambridge, MA and London: MIT Press, 1981; paperback ed., 1983.

C. Likely Sources Not Yet Investigated

- Metropolitan Government Archives, Nashville Public Library, Nashville, TN

“The Metropolitan Government Archives maintains over five million records, ten thousand photographs, 2500 volumes, and over 200 videocassettes. Dating from 1780-1990, these records document the history of Nashville and Davidson County from colonial times to the present.”⁵⁵

- Tennessee Historical Commission, Nashville, TN

The Tennessee Historical Commission should have information regarding the Clover Bottom area. I had hoped to pursue the architectural history of Clover Bottom because Andrew Jackson's store and racetrack were located there. If receipts in the Andrew Jackson papers and people associated with building projects at the store could be identified, than perhaps some distinction could be made between what Jackson was doing at The Hermitage and at Clover Bottom.

- Tennessee Room, State Library and Archives, Nashville, TN

This room has general information on the state and these sources would provide good background to place The Hermitage in context.

PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

Documentation of three of the log cabins on The Hermitage property was undertaken in 1999 by the Washington, D.C., office of the Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record (HABS/HAER), a division of the National Park Service. The NPS principals involved were E. Blaine Cliver, Division Chief, HABS/HAER, and Paul D. Dolinsky, Chief, HABS, and on behalf of the project sponsor, James Vaughan, Executive Director, The Hermitage, and Clare Adams, Director of Preservation, The Hermitage. The recordation project was initiated by Catherine C. Lavoie, Supervisory Historian, HABS, Mark S. Schara, HABS Architect, and Jillian E. Galle, Research Archaeologist, The Hermitage. The field recording was done by Project Supervisor, Mark S. Schara, HABS Architect, and Naomi Hernandez, HABS Architect, with assistance from Virginia B. Price, HABS Historian, and Jillian E. Galle, Research Archaeologist, The Hermitage. The architectural drawings were completed in Washington, D.C., by Mark S. Schara, Naomi Hernandez, and Brian Bitner, HABS Architects. The project historian was Virginia B. Price. Large format photography was produced by Jack E. Boucher, HABS Photographer.

⁵⁵Description taken directly from the Metropolitan Archives Information page in the Nashville Public Library System website, accessed 23 July 1999.

The reference staff at the Tennessee State Library and Archives recommended that I go to the “Metro” Archives and unfortunately I did not have time to do in the budgeted time of this project and considering its emphasis on the Andrew Jackson papers. The Metropolitan Government Archives, however, is a promising collection to investigate.